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BOOK REVIEWS.

All book reviews are by the editor in chief unless otherwise expressly stated.

William Fitzhugh Gordon. A Virginian of the old school. His Life, Times and Contemporaries. By Armistead C. Gordon, Author of the "Ivory Gate" and "Robin Aroon." The Neale Publishing Company, New York and Washington. 1909. Price \$3.00 net—20 cents postage.

Some one has said that the Virginians made more history and wrote less than any other people on the American Continent. It might have been added that they cared as little for their own history as though they had none. The lives of the greatest men of the Commonwealth were of too transcendent worth to escape immortality; but the bead roll of her great men would glisten with thousands of jewels, now hidden as if in the depths of a mine, had the historian been found to bring into light their virtues and their deeds. In many cases the lives of men who only needed a chronicler to render them famous, are like the blasts of the Huntsman in the old German distich:

"Es blies ein Jäger wohl in sein Horn
Und Alles was en blies, das war verlorn."*

We owe a debt of gratitude, therefore, to the patient writer who under difficulties hard to be estimated brings into public view one of the representative men of the Nation. And when he does it with such a subject, and treats it in as charming a manner as Mr. Gordon has done in the present volume our admiration should be added to our gratitude. General Gordon occupied no small place in the annals of his native state. His reputation extended far beyond, in his all too short career in the Congress of the United States and his "Sub Treasury" plan—defeated whilst he was a Member of Congress,—was finally adopted and is today a part of our national system.

His figure, as presented to us by his talented grandson, is one which looms up large as a man of extraordinary oratorical powers, united with unquestioned abilities as a lawyer and statesman, whilst his integrity as a politician and his fearless devotion to the right, even though it meant his political death, is one to be held up as an example to all time.

The book goes beyond the ordinary biography. It paints a picture of the Virginia of Gordon's forefathers' day, as well as his own, which is both pleasant to read and a pride to recall. As a contribution to the history of Jackson's administration; to that of the founding of the University of Virginia (in which Gordon rendered most valuable service) and to that of the great Constitutional Convention of 1829-30 the volume is of great value. The style of the writer, the sketches of General Gordon's great contemporaries, and the skillful handling of the material has produced a book which is not only readable, but of absorbing interest. It should be read by those who love Virginia's great past. It should be studied by her young men. And even the careless mass of general readers will find it to supply entertainment coupled with historical interest and valuable information.

*"A hunter blew into his horn
And all that he blew the wind carried away."